THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO); (a) and (b) Mobile Vans of Super Bazar New Delhi, at present, are covering urban, semi-urban and rural areas of Delhi. Some of the rural areas are Kanjha-wala and Palam villages which are visited by the Mobile Vans of Super Bazer daily during the last three months.

(c) Super Bazer has informed that it may not be possible, at present, to cover the entire rural areas of Delhi. However, Super Bazer plans to cover more areas including rural areas with its static as well as mobile outlets gradually.

Review of programmes for alleviating rural poverty

709. SHRI KALPNATH RAI;

SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any 'review of programmes being implemented in rural areas for |ailleviating| rural poverty has been undertaken;

(b) if so, the results of the same;

(c) whether any changes have been introduced for effective and speedy implementation of the programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) to (c) A statement regarding major Rural Development Programmes viz. Integrated Rural Development Pro-gramme, National Rural Employment Programme, Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme, Drought Prone Areas Programme and Desert Development Programme ls attached. *(See below)*

Statement

I. Integrated Rural Development Programme;

The IRD Programme has been evaluated by a number of organisations. The major shortcomings pointed out in these studies include low per capita investment resulting in low returns to the beneficiaries, uniformity in financial allocations and physical targets, wrong identification of some beneficiaries and absence of adequate forward and backward linkages.

The steps taken to improve the implementation of the programme include:

1. A highe'r investment per family including package of assistance to enable proper return af investment for new beneficiaries;

2. Supplemental dose of assistance to those families assisted during Vlth Plan who have not been able to cross the poverty line, for no fault of thei'r own;

3. The approach of uniformity has been changed to one of selectivity based on poverty incidence;

4. Identification of beneficiaries must involve the people's representatives much more closely;

5. Efforts to improve the linkages thorough identifying bodies at district level for this purpose Or the establishment 'of district supply and Marketing Societies;

6. Increasing the coverage ol V/omen beneficiaries to 30 per cent;

7. Initiating a new scheme for the proper coordination of the training effort through the establishment of Composite Rural Training and Technology Centres. This is under consfLderatftHi of Government of India and guidelines will be issued separately;

8. The administrative set up at block, district and state levels

should be streamlined and strengthened, wherever necessary. A High Level Committee has also been appointed to review the existing administrative arrangements for implementation of rural development programmes;

9. Improvement in the functioning of banks, particularly at the grass root level;

10. Creating a better climate, of awareness of beneficiaries and their proper ogranisation;

11. A greater involvement of voluntary ageneies will be sought for implementation of IRDP Schemes, including TRYSEM to enable new types of family oriented projects to be implemented in a most effective manner;

12. A new system of concurrent evaluation on the basis Of taking up 36 districts, 72 UocKs and a group of 10 current beneficiaries and 10 beneficiaries who leceived their assistance two years ago, per month, is being introduced to have a closer monitoring of the programme.

2. National Rural Employment Programme;

The Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission is currently undertaking) evaluation studies in nine States and the final report of these evaluation studies is likeiy to be available by the end of the current year. In addition, the Central Government is also getting evaluation studies conducted in some of the other State* like Bihar Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, and Orissa by independent in-stitutions.

3. Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme:

The RLEGP was launched with effect from 15th August, 1983. Evaluation of this programme has not been done by the Department of Rural Development, However, the Implementation of the Programme ia received periodically by the Central Committee as well as the Department of Rural Dvelopment.

Under the programme State/UT governments are required to formulate specific work projects. These project proposals are examined in the Department and placed before the Central Committee on NREP/RLEGP for consideration and approval. The State/UT Government can commence work only after the project submitted by them are approved by the Central Committee. However, from the year 1985-86 priority has been given to social forestry by earmarking 20 per cent for social forestry and exemption in this regard has been granted to the State/UT Governments in respect of social forestry projects. The State/UT Government have been permitted to implement these projects in anticipation of the approval of the Central Committee.

4. Drought prone Area Programme & Desert Development Programme:

(i) On the basis of a review, the DPAP spread has increased from 511 blocks of 70 districts of 13 States to 615 blocks of 88 districts of 13 States. The coverage of DDP has increased from 126 blocks in 21 districts of 5 States to 131 blocks in 21 districts of 5 States.

(ii) More emphasis has been laid on an integrated area development on a mini or micro watershed basis to mitigate the impact of drought.

(ni) Integration of the area development programme with employment programmes like NREP, RLEGP etc. and anti-poverty programme of IRDP has been emphasised.

(iv) Eor effective implementation: of the Desert Development Programme, its pattern of funding is being changed from the existing 50:50 sharing basis between the Central and State Government to 100 per ment centrally funded.